the Antyodaya Anna Yojana are being received up to 31.12.2005 and the cards would be issued to the identified AAY families within 30 days.

(b) The renewal of all the existing ration cards is done after every five years. The physical verfication of the application forms submitted for renewal of existing ration cards in time consuming. The physical verification is considered necessary to ensure issue of ration cards to the bona-fide consumers of the respective category.

(c) Yes Sir, the new Ration Cards are being issued through computerization of records.

(d) The Computerization will lead to creation of bilingual database for the Public Distribution System. The software being developed will have the facilities of search by name and address, which would facilitate preparation of fresh ration cards by ensuring that there are no duplicate/ bogus ration cards. Each application received for issue of ration card would be given a unique number for further enquiry.

Grain Banks in Natural Calamities prone Areas

1096. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up grain banks in the areas prone to natural calamities where transactions are made with foodgrain and not money;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government want to set up 5,416 grain banks in the country; and

(c) if so, the expected cost of setting up the grain banks and how they will function?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to set up about 3471 grain banks during 2005-2006 in the country.

(c) The estimated cost of setting up of each grain bank is Rs. 60,000.00 including Rs. 1800.00 to be born by the State Government as 50% share of transport cost. Each Grain Bank of (average) 40 Below Poverty Line (BPL). Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families will be provided 40 quintals of foodgrains by Government of India as one time grant. Besides the foodgrains, Rs. 1800.00 as transportation cost, Rs. 1400.00 as training expenses, Rs. 6000.00 as expenses for storage, weights and scales, etc.

and Rs. 3000.00 as monitoring and administrative cost will also be provided by the Central Government for each bank. The bank will be managed by an Executive Committee, comprising of 3-4 members of the bank including at least one women. The grain banks are to be established by Gram Sabha/Panchayats, Self Help Groups or Non Government Organizations (NGOs) in villages notified by the State Governments as food scarce areas. The Executive Committee of the grain bank will lend foodgrains to its members as and when required, maintain the account and ensure recovery of foodgrains as per the laid down procedure.

Revising norms for distribution of wheat and rice

1097. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to revise the norms for distribution of wheat and rice through the Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had decided to allot rice and wheat in a 50:50 ratio for rice consuming States and for wheat consuming States in 70:30 ratio;and

(c) whether this has been done due to shortage of about 20.0 lakh tonnes in the rabi wheat procured this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) the norms of allocation of foodgrains @ 3 kg. per family per month for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) familes under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has not been changed. The Government has, however, decided to streamline the ratio of wheat and rice in the allocation of foodgrains for BPL and APL families on the basis of food habits of each State/UT. The ratio of wheat and rice has been revised with effect from 01.08.2005 on the basis of the following proportion or the existing allocation of wheat whichever is less:

(i) 70:30 for wheat consuming States/UTs;

(ii) 50:50 for wheat and rice consuming States/UTs; and

(iii) 30:70 for rice consuming States/UTs.